Interception of Telephone Communications in Karnataka

*474. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act the interception of telephones by authorised State Government officers can be done only after recording in writing the reasons for such a request;

(b) whether during the period 1985-88 the authorised officers in Karnataka had recorded the reasons for such interception in each case; and

(c) if not, what are the names of the persons in whose cases the reasons were not recorded in writing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

Import of Restricted/Banned Insecticides

*475. SHRI M.A. BABY : SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of INDUSRTY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 1539 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1988 and state.

(a) whether some private companies other than those referred to therein also approached his Ministry for allowing them for ad-hoc import of restricted/banned insecticides, fungicides, weedicides, etc. under the 1988-91 import policy; if so, what are the details thereof product wise and company wise alongwith the quantity of ad-hoc import allowed in each case and also the number of applications pending in this regard, company-wise;

(b) what are the names of the insecticides, fungicides, weedicides the import of which are restricted/banned;

(c) what are the basis for allowing such ad-hoc import and the policy decision taken in the matter, productwise; and

(d) whether the Department of Economic Affairs released foreign exchange for such *adhoc* import: if so, what are the details thereof, Party-wise and productwise, and the date of release of foreign exchange in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir. Such import applications are given directly to Chief Controller of Imports & Exports and not to this Ministry. We are normally asked for comments by the CCI&E. There is no information with us about any other applications.

(b) List of pesticides banned/restricted for imports is available in the printed book, Import and Export Policy April 1988-March 1991; issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) Pesticides are banned/restricted for imports mainly because there is

enough production in the country to meet the demand. In the two pesticides allowed for imports, there is no production of carbaryl in the country and negligible production for Diuron and imports were allowed to meet the domestic demand.

(d) Foreign Exchange was given by the banks on issue of licence by the CCI&E, as per normal procedure. Specific clerance of Department of Economic Affairs was not needed.

North Madras Thermal Power Plant

*476. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T.R. BALU :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the salient features of the North Madras Thermal Power Plant and also its generation capacity;

(b) whether the project has been approved by the Planning Commission and the Central Electricity Authority; if so, when ;

(c) what will be the estimated cost of the Project ;

(d) what is the quantum of loan approved by the Asian Development Bank, what will be the rate of interest and also the terms of repayment; and

(e) how much coal will be required for the plant and what arrangements are being made for the supply of coal for the disposal of coal ash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) The North Madras Thermal Power Project, comprising 3 units of 210 MW each, was techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in March, 1984 and was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in April, 1986 for being executed in the State Setcor by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) at an estimated cost of Rs. 547.79 crores. The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 721.00 crores.

The Asian De velopment (ADB) Bank have extended a loan of US$ 150 million for the first two units of 210 MW each of the North Madras Thermal Power Project. The loan is to be repaid over a period of 25 years, including a grace period of 5 years. The rate of interest is determined in accordance with the pool-based variable landing system (present lending rate is 6.53% per annum) plus commitment charges of 0.75% per annum. The 3rd unit of 210 MW has been appraised by the ADB recently for providing loan assistance.

The coal linkage for 3×210 MW units of North Madras Thermal Power Project has been given from Talcher Coalfield. The total coal requirement for these units, when commissioned, is expected to be about 2.7 million tonnes per annum. M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) who were commissioned by the TNEB to carry out a study on the least cost solution for coal transportation for the proposed station have recommended the trans-